

4. (twice amended) The nonwoven web material of claim [1] 5 wherein the long natural fiber bundles have a chopped fiber length in the range of 10 - 50 mm.
6. (twice amended) The nonwoven web material of claim [1] 5 comprising a synthetic fiber component.
8. (amended) The nonwoven web material of claim [1] 5 wherein the web has a basis weight up to about 100 g/m².
9. (amended) The nonwoven web material of claim [1] 5 wherein the web has a basis weight of at least about 100 g/m².
10. (amended) The nonwoven web material of claim [1] 5 wherein the unpulped fibers have a modulus of elasticity in the range of about 2 - 5 x 10⁶ psi.

Please add the following claims:

- 18. A method of producing a nonwoven web material comprising:
dispersing unpulped natural fiber bundles in a fluid to form a fluid dispersion; and
depositing the fluid dispersion on a fiber collecting wire to form the nonwoven web material.
19. The method of claim 18 wherein the web material comprises at least about 30 percent by weight unpulped natural fiber bundles.
20. The method of claim 18 wherein the fluid dispersion further includes a member selected from pulp, man-made fibers and mixtures thereof.
21. The method of claim 18 further including placing a layer comprising thermoplastic fibers adjacent a side of the nonwoven web material to form a